Wisconsin Recycles

The following items are **banned** from landfills and incinerators statewide and should be reused, recycled or composted.

Containers

- #1 and #2 plastic bottles and jars
- Aluminum containers
- Bi-metal cans
- Glass containers
- Steel (tin) cans

Paper and Cardboard

- Corrugated cardboard
- Magazines, catalogs, and other materials on similar paper
- Newspaper and newsprint materials
- Office paper

Yard Materials

- Grass clippings
- Debris and brush under 6" in diameter
- Leaves

Vehicle Items

- Lead-acid vehicle batteries
- Tires *
- Used oil filters
- Waste oils *

**These items may be burned in a solid waste treatment facililty with energy recovery.*

Appliances

- Air conditioners
- Boilers
- Clothes dryers
- Clothes washers
- Dehumidifiers
- Dishwashers
- Freezers
- Furnaces
- Microwaves
- Ovens
- Refrigerators
- Stoves
- Water heaters

Electronics

- Cell phones
- Computers – desktop, laptop, netbook, tablet
- Computer monitors
- Computer keyboards and mice
- Computer scanners
- Computer speakers
- Desktop printers (including those that fax and scan)
- DVD players, VCRs, DVRs and all other video players
- External hard drives
- Fax machines
- Flash drives/USBs
- Other items that plug into a computer
- Televisions

Why ban items from the landfill and incinerator?

The items on this list are made of materials that can be reused in new products. Some also have toxic components that we do not want in our groundwater, air or soil. Recycling and composting allow landfills to last longer, provide markets with valuable reusable materials, create jobs, and prevent pollution.

Why not ban more materials?

Corrugated cardboard is banned while waxed cardboard is not. Some things with plugs, like computers, are banned, while others, like toasters, are not. Why? Current bans cover some of the most easily reusable or most toxic materials on the market today. Eventually more items may be added to this list as new recycling markets develop or the types of materials we throw away change.

Some communities go above and beyond what is required by state law. Check with your local government or recycling service provider to find out what additional materials are accepted for recycling in your area. For more information about Wisconsin's recycling program, search "recycle" at dnr.wi.gov. Wisconsin's recycling requirements apply to everyone in the state at all residences and places of work or play.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Waste and Materials Management
P.O. Box 7921, Madison, WI 53707 • (608) 266-2111
DNRWasteMaterials@wisconsin.gov

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services and functions, under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.

This publication is available in alternative format (large print, Braille, audiotape etc.) upon request. Please call (608) 266-2111 for more information.

PUB-WA-1574 2012 Printed on Recycled Paper

HOME COMPOSTING MATERIALS

☑ COMPOST



COMPOST TIP

Chopping or shredding these items helps speed up the composting process.

For best results, composters can mix in 2 to 3 volumes of "brown" material with each volume of "green" material.

Carbon-Rich "Browns"

Brown leaves & yard waste

- Brush & twigs (1/2" in diameter or less)
- Cardboard (dry and clean)
- Egg cartons (shredded)
- Newspaper
- Nuts & nut shells (but **not** black walnuts)
- Paper towels
- Pine cones & pine needles
- Sawdust & shavings (from non-treated wood)
- Straw & hay
- Wood chips

Nitrogen-Rich "Greens"

Green leaves & yard waste

- Coffee beans, grounds & used filters
- Dirt & potting soil
- Egg shells
- Flowers & yard plants
- Fruit, including cores & rinds
- Grass clippings
- Gourds & pumpkins
- Melons and melon rinds
- Tea leaves & tea bags
- Vegetables, greens & legumes

☒ NOT FOR COMPOST



Not for Home Composting

- Biodegradable forks, spoons & knives
- Branches or logs more than 6" in diameter
- Charcoal briquettes or briquette ash
- Cigar & cigarette ashes
- Coffee or beverage cups
- Diapers
- Dairy products (butter, milk, cheese, etc.)
- Invasive weeds and plants
- Meat (cooked or raw) & bones
- Oils, greases & fats (including snack chips)
- Pet food
- Pet or human waste
- Pizza boxes with grease or cheese on them
- Recyclables (glass, plastic, metal cans. etc.)
- Sawdust from treated wood
- Trash (wrappers, packaging, etc.)
- Used take-out containers & Styrofoam shells
- Wood treated with varnish or paint

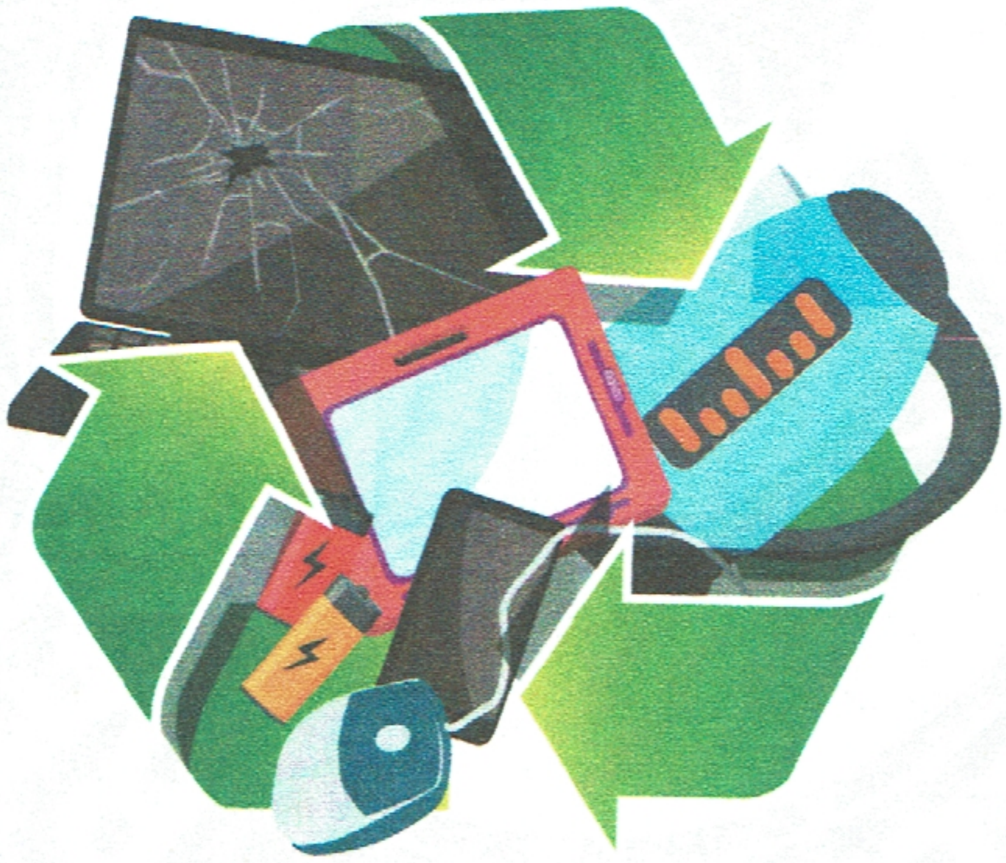
For more, visit dnr.wi.gov & search "compost," or consult other DNR publications, Home Composting: Reap A Heap of Benefits & Home Composting: The Basic Composter.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have questions, please write to Equal Opportunity Office, Department of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. This publication is available in alternative format (large print, Braille, audiotape etc.) upon request. Please call 608-266-2111 for more information. WA-1785 2015

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

EXCEL AT E-CYCLING

WHAT TO DO WITH UNWANTED ELECTRONICS



E-CYCLE WISCONSIN

THE FOLLOWING ELECTRONICS ARE BANNED FROM THE TRASH:

- TELEVISIONS
- COMPUTERS, INCLUDING DESKTOPS, LAPTOPS AND TABLETS
- COMPUTER MONITORS
- DESKTOP PRINTERS
- OTHER COMPUTER ACCESSORIES
- E-READERS
- DVD PLAYERS, VCRS, DVRS AND OTHER VIDEO PLAYERS
- CELLPHONES
- FAX MACHINES

There are several things to keep in mind when recycling electronics in Wisconsin:

- Electronics should not go in your recycling cart. The facilities that recycle them are different than the ones for curbside recyclables.
- Batteries found in many electronics can spark and cause a fire in your recycling bin or garbage can, especially if the battery is swollen or damaged.
- Be sure to wipe your data from devices such as computers, tablets and cellphones.
- Ask questions about where your electronics are going and how they are handled. There may be a fee to recycle some electronics, especially TVs and monitors.

RESOURCES:

The DNR maintains a list of electronics collection sites and mail-back programs. Go to **dnr.wi.gov** and search **"ecycle."**

The nonprofit organization Call2Recycle has a list of battery recycling sites: **www.call2recycle.org**.

WISCONSIN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Bureau of Waste and Materials Management
DNRWasteMaterials@wisconsin.gov

PUBL-WA1907

RECYCLE RIGHT

HELPFUL TIPS FOR RECYCLING IN WISCONSIN



THE FOLLOWING RECYCLABLES ARE REQUIRED TO BE COLLECTED BY ALL CURBSIDE RECYCLING PROGRAMS OR DROP-OFF LOCATIONS IN THE STATE:

- ALUMINUM CONTAINERS
- GLASS CONTAINERS
- STEEL, TIN AND BI-METAL CONTAINERS
- NEWSPAPERS, MAGAZINES AND OTHER MATERIALS PRINTED ON SIMILAR PAPER
- CORRUGATED CARDBOARD AND OTHER CONTAINER BOARD
- #1 AND #2 PLASTIC BOTTLES AND JARS SUCH AS MILK JUGS, LAUNDRY DETERGENT BOTTLES, SODA AND WATER BOTTLES

Check with your local recycling program or hauler for an exact list of what they accept — many take additional materials. Contamination is a big issue reported by Wisconsin recycling facilities. Following best practices and keeping out unwanted materials really helps! If in doubt, throw it out.



These materials should not go in the recycling:

- Loose plastic bags
- "Tanglers" such as cords, hoses, light strings, ropes and wires
- Needles/sharps
- Propane cylinders
- Clothing/textiles
- Personal protective equipment such as masks, gloves and disinfectant wipes

Additional tips:

- Break down shipping and food boxes
- Rinse containers and cans
- Keep recyclables dry and clean
- Put items in the recycling bin or dumpster, not alongside
- DO NOT PUT ITEMS IN PLASTIC BAGS

RESOURCES:

- For a full list of materials banned from the trash, go to **dnr.wi.gov** and search "**what to recycle**."
- For a DNR map of sharps collection sites, go to **dnr.wi.gov** and search "**sharps**."
- For sites to recycle materials that should not go in your cart, check the Wisconsin Recycling Markets Directory: **WisconsinRecyclingDirectory.com**.